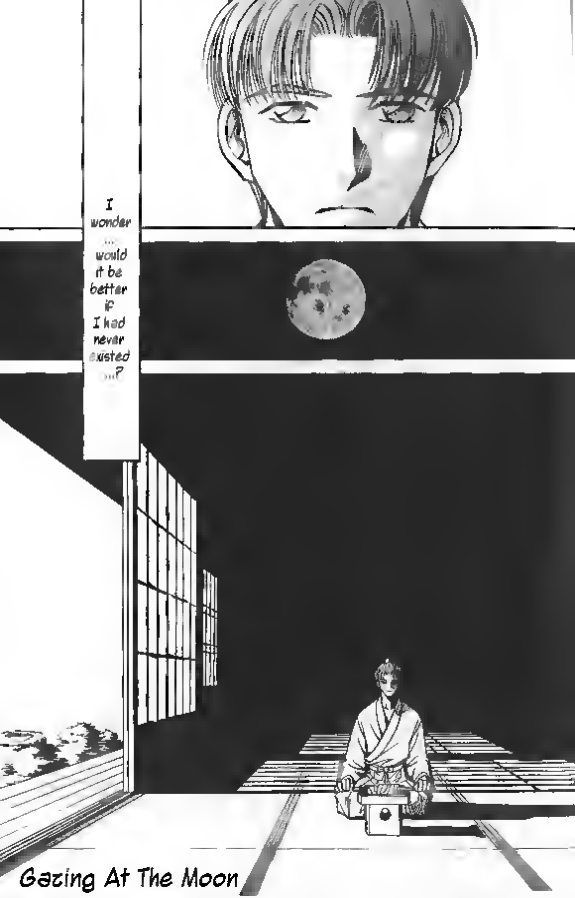


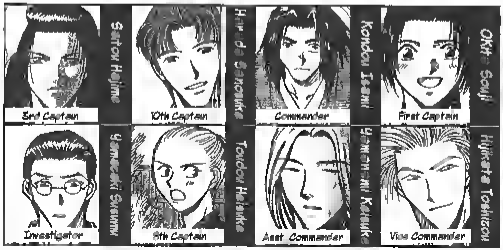
Gazing At The Moon

Sanosuke!
protect you...
I will...

Sanosuke!
SFX. "door opens"
Rise and shine, sleepy-head! Breakfast is ready!

But Toudou-kun, Harada-san goes out late at night he comes back just before morning rounds
He's usually the first one up to practice before breakfast Now he sleeps in!
Sanosuke's been weird lately
SFX. "gulp"
WHAT?!
But...
Not possible...
SFX. "getting angry"
What's up with you?!
HEY!
Wah! I didn't do anything!
Captain Harada no way...
It just gets weirder and weirder
I knew it...

Leaving a spy right to our door
Well, I've been...
Let me go, Souji!
Toudou-kun, calm down!
What's wrong? Won't you please tell us?
I mean, we all make mistakes, right?
Huh?
Um... sure
There's been enough gossip


Okita Souji
First Captain
Hijikata Toshizou
Vice Commander
Kondou Isami
Commander
Yamanami Keisuke
Asst. Commander
Hirai Ahiruke
Commander
Toudou Heisuke
8th Captain
Saitou Hajime
3rd Captain
Yamaguchi Susumu
Investigator
Saitou Hajime
10th Captain

Why the frown, old buddy?
Hey, screw-up, does that scar on your stomach still hurt?
Hey
It's Sanosuke, the guy who couldn't even kill himself right
Man, you are soooo screwed... Isami must know...
I've heard the rumors
Dude, you must be pissed!
Or so I'm told

Although in Harada's case, the rumors are true, he has not been executed
Toshi-san!
"..."
Hijikata-san!!
TOSHI-ZOU!!
.....
There's no way Sanosuke would do that!
Hijikata-san, that was mean!
Traitors must be dealt with...
YOU FUCKING ASSHOLE!!
Please stop! You're acting like children!
SFX: "stepping"
Toudou-kun, I want to speak to you for a moment
We were concered with the morale of the group, so nothing was done

We really do believe in Harada...
So, have you thought it over?
My answer is the same as always. I have no intention of leaving the Shinsengumi.
Is this any way to treat an old friend?
It was fate that we met again in Kyoto
I didn't know you had left the clan
It's been a year...

Even so, overthrowing the shogun is way too extreme
Don't you ever want to change this fucking world?
Since we're never going to see eye-to-eye, why keep this up?
But you always come whenever I call
That's because I know something you don't
.....
.....

Come along, come along little brother
I'll teach you how to read, and how to write, and how to use a sword... I'll teach you everything
And I'll always protect you...
I'll take this child into my home on the pretext that he is an adopted child
Your mother is in good health...
Sanosuke, you must work hard to be a good brother
I will!
But I know she's not the one you really want to hear about
Just tell me, then!!
You also tried to die, but left your clan in shame...
It's truly tragic... Because of him, your father killed himself and your mother returned to her parents, where she lives in seclusion

For his own safety, I thought it better to raise him in my home
And you knew all of this, Father?!
Koyata is the illegitimate child of the lord who passed away last year. His real children have recently died of illness. Although he is illegitimate, Koyata is set to inherit the domain
As of today, you two are no longer brothers. Become as strangers to each-other!
Father!! Why?!
But Koyata isn't even 8 years old yet..!!
For plotting to assasinate the late master's child
Harada Chouji has been ordered to commit suicide
*Chouji is Sancouke's Father

It would be better if I didn't exist
The other top retainers - who disliked Father, as he was well aware - tried to put the blame on him... on a dead man...
Father wouldn't do something like that
I'm the only one left who knows the truth about Koyata's past... I'm putting him in danger simply by breathing
I want my brother to live happily as a lord... I shouldn't exist

Thanks to you, I Failed
If I hadn't found you, you would have died
What about him?
But you only get what you earn - my information is not free
What about my brother?!
What an awkward conversation
Maybe next time~
Thanks again~
Wait!!

Bano-suke
There's a rumor going around that you're meeting with a guy from Nagato
*Nagato is in Chuuchu
Really?
Huh? What is it?
Because I think that you and everyone else from Sheikan will believe me.
How can you be so carefree when people are saying stuff like that?!
Well, you know how those rumors are!

Come on, let's take care of this together!
I just wanna know why a couple rumors have you running for the door!
Maybe I heard wrong!!
At least I hope so...
I do believe you! That's why I was trying to talk to you!
That's why there are things I can't tell you
Wait for me?
Please.
We're your friends!!

Several days later
Hey, Toudou-kun, how about I take you out to eat?
This is delicious!!
Nope, too busy!
Are you guys in the Shinsen-gumi?
Yeah, so?
Sano
You idiot! This isn't like you!!
Why?!
You...
You're supposed to be be happy all the Fucking time!

Let me see
I'm supposed to give you this
Yeah, that's me!
Um
Do you know Harada-san?
Wait a minute, kiddo
Well, well
Toudou-kun!!
Toudou-kun...
You're a big liar!
The real guy you're looking for is down there in the room on the left~
Okay~
SFX: *crinkle*

He's late...
Sorry to keep you waiting
What the...?!
Kazuma?!

SFX: "collapse"
Hang on!! I'll get a doctor!!
Shit!
Nothing can save me now...
There's no point
I'm going to die here...
Without ever accomplishing anything...

Hyikata san...?
Damn him... that Hyikata...
There was something I had to tell you before I died...
SFX "surprise"
Your brother...
Don't talk! I have to stop the bleeding
I have to tell you...

But... Why...?!
I was there... I was the one who helped him
Killed himself last year
SFX: 'trembling'
But it happened...
For an illegitimate child to become a lord is an inconceivable crime...
Although he was wise for one so young, the foolish adults ridiculed him...
It was pitiful...

He had grasped it so tightly that his fingers turned white
That was when I decided to leave the clan and change the world
His hand, clenched around the sword, was faintly trembling
There is nothing as painful as the moment when the blade touches you...
SFX:"grab"
Then... I cut off his head

Please, brother
Sanosuke ni-sama... I just want you and Father and everything to go back to the way things were
That child's final words were

SFX: *Footsteps*

Ah... ahh...
AAAHHHH!!
Uahh
My brother he's dead
Did he have to die young for that?!
So he could become clan lord, I tried to kill myself but I failed and ran away
Right up to the end, he thought of Father, Mother and me as his family
Brother
Ah... ah...
I've been thinking only about him have I sacrificed everything for nothing?!

Everyone...
Ah... uaahh...
Aahh...
Koyata is dead... Kazumi too...
Bano-suke...
Bano
Ah... Ahh...

He was such a good child...
I would have done anything for him...
I wanted to protect him...
Ah...
That's all I seem capable of doing...
But even so, he's not running away...
Ah... I'm scaring Heisuke...
But but...
He's gone...

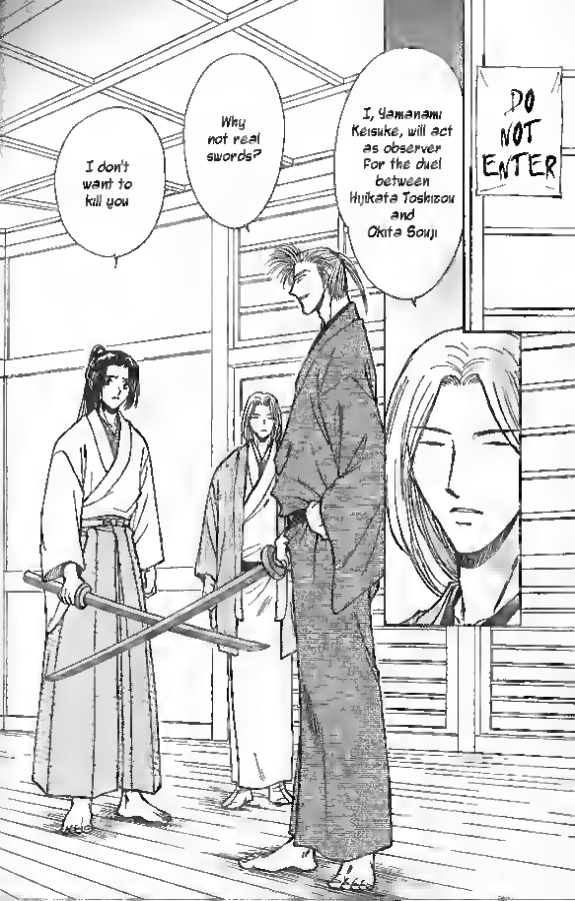
SFX: "loud heartbeat"
You've had this inside you for so long...
How did you ever laugh?

Ahh...
You idiot...

You're really strong!
Thank you so much.
Heke, don't be so formal!

I still have people I want to protect
That's because you're strong enough to support me
Really!
You're embarrassing me, you shithead!
What do you want to eat? My treat!
When you realise that, you're just a little further down your path
WHAT?!
I'm not THAT cheap!!
THE END

Wild Grasses
-susuki-


I don't want to kill you
Why not real swords?
I, Yamanami Keisuke, will act as observer for the duel between Hijikata Toshizou and Okita Souji
DO NOT ENTER

You can still kill someone with a wooden sword
SFX: door open
YAMANAMI! Why aren't you stopping them?!
You ALWAYS stop them!!
What are you two doing?! Closing the dojo like that!
Isami...
I thought there should be another observer, so I asked Kondou-san to come
Kondou-san

The Shinsengumi's First Headquarters

My Trip to the Yagi House

I'm a little behind the times, but last year I finally got to visit the Yagi House! (I was working on "The Law of the Sword" at the time... yeah, I'm slow) Although I usually don't have time for sightseeing, I took one of those bus tours of Kyoto's old city. I guess the Shinsengumi are trendy these days, because they were over capacity and needed an extra bus!

But as you might expect, it was mostly old people...

You should be a little more discreet with your photography... since it's technically illegal...
Didn't he've trained here...
The tour guide because she was asleep on the bus
I remember

Kondou-san, please watch us
The previous day
It's good to see you, Chief Priest
Why ?
Okita
What is this about?

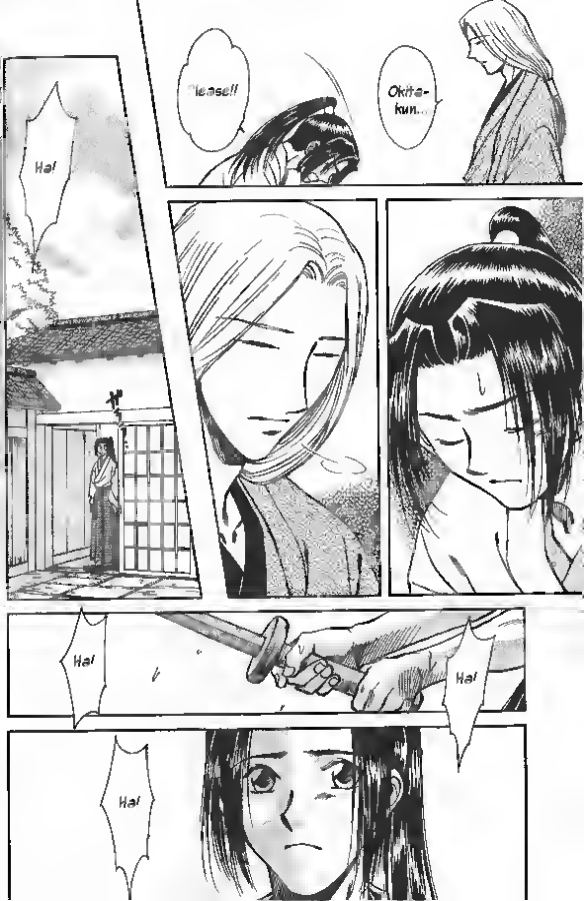
Excuse me...
Hiji...
Why did you call me out here?
I couldn't talk to you there...
You've been moody lately
So what's so important you can't say it in public?
I want to know something, but I've been keeping my mouth shut...

Just say it
Why did you kill Takaoka Kazuma?
why

...Who is that?
Hijikata-san!!
Takaoka Kazuma was an associate of dangerous men
We knew this from thorough investigation
He was Harada-san's old friend, they were from the same hometown...
I didn't know
When Harada said he wanted a memorial for the guy, I was honestly suprised
No!!
You really didn't know?
So you just killed him?
That's what we do

Hijikata-san!!
If that's all, I'm going
Okita-kun, I happened to overhear... Let's talk about this
Yama-nami-san...

Is it true?
The rumor going around is that Hanada-kun was in contact with a spy from Nagato, and that said spy was Takaoka Kazuma
But Hanada-san would never betray us!!
I have no intention of accusing him
Thank you so much...
What's that?
However, there is one thing I am sure of...
When Takaoka Kazuma was killed, Hyjikata-kun was not on duty
But then why was he out there...?
Why don't we go back and find out?
Let me ask him!


Hah
Hah
Hah
Hah
Hah
Okita-kun...
Hah

Harada-san...
Um...
What's up? You look troubled
Um, Harada-san... what do you think about Hijikata-san?
Huh?!
I mean... Hijikata-san or Takaoka-san... um...
Yeah, that
Hey, Okita

As for that...
I have no hard feelings
There's no doubt in my mind that Kazuma was an extremist—
Hijikata-san carried out his duty
There's no way I can fault him for that
But...
In a way, I think his karma caught up with him
Honestly, it's hard even to think about him
I'm so sorry...

There's no way I can do it now, but someday I'd like to get an ihai* for Kazuma back home...
*a Buddhist memorial tablet, which can be very expensive
Hijikata-san... he didn't know that Takaoka-san was your friend
Hijikata-san offered his condolences at the temple like everyone else
I sort of think that if Hijikata-san had known, he wouldn't have done it
But if he only knew what I was thinking
He wouldn't be able to smile like that...
I can't tell him...
But nothing we can say will change the past
Harada-san doesn't have a doubt in his heart

Harada-san, please forgive me
I've brought up painful things
Hey, Okita...!
I'm sorry!!
That's good
I won't bother you with them any more!

SFX: "running"
SFX: "door open"
Hijikata-san, I'm in love with you!!
Hijikata-san!
Ah, it's the noisy one

It's really weird to see you like this...
When you're always so composed...
But I love this side of you...
So please don't change!!
Could you PLEASE tell me what's going on?!
Just like that?
Whoa, too much information...
Don't change

Hijikata-san...
Why do you say that?
Have I changed in some way?
You were off duty on the day you killed Takaoka Kazuma, weren't you? Then why?!
So what if I was off duty? I saw a criminal while I was out and I killed him
You expect me to believe it was an accident?!
Shut the Fuck up! It wasn't my Fault!
He told me he was using Harada, so I killed him!!

You you just...
You just want to kill anything that gets in your way!
Don't say that kind of shit!
What was there between Harada-san and Takaoka-san?!
I don't know what Harada-san was thinking when he went to meet that guy...
The Tenth Captain of the Shinsengumi and an enemy spy...

But
Without knowing Harada-san and Takaoka-san's feelings – how could you do that?!
But by killing his old friend Takaoka-san, you could effectively eliminate Harada-san as a threat to you!
You're right. I'm a terrible person
It would be an outrage if a vice-commander killed a captain!
But if Harada-san had really been passing information to Takaoka-san, you would have killed him too

You... the Shinsen-gumi...
I would do anything to protect you all
Even if I have to go against your wishes
Ah...
Mm

You're just like you were back then...
Can't you try to understand my feelings without thinking about my body?
SFX: "Hug"
If that's all you care about...
It's over!!
Hii...
Let's not go that far
SFX: "Floor squeaking"
Mm...

When I think of the susuki grass that grows wild around Tama... I'm reminded of him
That's right... wild grasses...
Even in the wind of a late autumn storm, they don't break

But susuki grass is sharp enough to cut—
Their strength lies in their ability to bend in the wind

Souji?
Mn
SFX: "door closing"
SFX: "silence"
I don't understand him...
Huh?
Invitation to Duel

And now this?
We've never seriously faced off against one another
We always end up in bed...
HA!
Will we reach the answer we seek through our crossed swords?

But that is why I called you here
I don't know if I should stop them...
Yama-nami...
I cannot stop them

Toshi...!!
AH!
That's enough!!

..heh
He he he..
Aha..
O..Okita?
Haha
Aha ha ha..
I thought you were really going to kill me

You've totally beaten me, Hijikata-san
You always do...
Nothing has changed since back then in Edo...
You're shockingly childish
Look at me! Don't you know who I am?!
This isn't the time to let petty emotions take over
You said that I've changed - but this is me!

Shut it, Isami!
Toshi-san, don't say things you don't mean
If you hate what I've become, then leave me!
I
Kondou-san
So kiss and make up you two!
He acts like he only loves himself, but he wouldn't be able to live with himself if you hated him
ISAMI! Stop acting like you know what the Fuck you're talking about!!!
And Souji, STOP LAUGHING!!!
Haha

SFX. "creaking, then door slam"
1104-1...
Soon after that, Hijikata-san arranged for eternal memorial readings to be performed at the temple in Takaoka-san's honor
I know he hates playing the responsible role

But...
I'd like to believe that if he had known that Takaoka-san and Harada-san were friends, Hijikata-san wouldn't have killed him
It's possible...
My view of things might be a little too soft...
He is like the wild susuki grass, which cuts you as it blows in the wind...
THE END

Flowers That Do Not Fall 1

Here we are
You're a good drinker!
I have a well trained stomach
Oh yeah? Where did you train that?
Oh man
I was joking

The Place Where Serizawa Kamo Was Assassinated!

My Trip to the Yagi House Part 2

The man giving the tour of the house was a descendant of the Yagi Family. He didn't seem very enthusiastic about us loud Shinsengumi fans, and had to raise his voice to get us to settle down. I was pretty excited but I didn't get to ask as many questions as I had wanted. I guess he wasn't a fan of the Shinsengumi?

The people look like angels.
During summer vacation, we get a lot of young people visiting, but I don't know why the like the Shinsengumi... of all things
They say it's because they're "cool."
Right, right, who knows
But then two girls said some "YAOI" thing was "cool."
Ohh cuuty not you old man
WAH!

I thought we were done recruiting
Would you observe the sword skills of the newcomer?
I had something I wanted to ask you about
What is it, boss?
Oh great, what does he want now?
I thought I told you to call me "Hijikata" when we're on duty
Uh, I'm sorry
Toshi-san?
Why'd he do that? Is he new?
Nagakura-san just brought him in
Well, I guess if Nagakura brought him

We gotta check this guy out. What will you do if he's a spy?
I don't think it's like that...
He's Yamazaki Susumu, from Osaka
HUH?!
WHAT?!

Hiya!
Hiya!
Hiya!
Hiya!
Hiya!
Hiya!
smile
Hiya!

Who's that?
I think you ought to go say hi
You don't know him either?
Not a clue
Thank you, sir
Um...
You're not a soldier, right? Why are you...

I'm Yamazaki Susumu of the Kyoushin Akechi Ryuu school of swordsmanship... I'm pleased to meet you.
Ah?
Perhaps we can practice together
Don't worry about it
I'm so sorry! I didn't know your face!
SFX: "how"
Oh no, I'm a soldier
I'm Okita Souji... Nice to meet you

Toudou-kun!
It's good to meet you as well
Yeah, super
Why do you have to be like this ?
This is Toudou Heisuke, the 8th Unit Captain
Oh, I see, I see!
Ha ha ha
Guys who smile too much when they first meet you are creepy
TOUDOU-KUN!!!

Due to my work, I'm used to smiling a lot
Please forgive me
Right?
H-haa...
Someone I meet today could be a patient tomorrow,
So I always smile
My family runs an accu-puncture clinic in Osaka
I also became a doctor
Where to?
Do you think you could show me around?
How embarrassing!
Well, I don't even know where my room is

Where did that Yamazaki-kun go?
Let's ask if you can have that room!
Um ...
Well, when I came back, Nagakura-kun was asleep
Excuse me, sir, I've brought Yamazaki-san
Don't be so harsh
What a drunk, sleeping at this time of day!
Come now, he worked night shift and then went to a cherry blossom viewing party

Toshi-zou-san
Ah... it's been a while
Ah, Okita, thank...
SFX: door ope
Toshizou-san...?

Toshi... oh no, it's Vice Commander Hijikata now, isn't it?
You look so different
How so?
SFX: "grab"
He's smarter than he looks, so stay on his good side
SFX: "sudden movement"
BUT--
IF he sticks his nose into other people's business, I'll KICK HIS ASS!!
SFX: "turn"
Toshi-san!
Hijikata-san!

Finally awake, Nagakura-kun?!
What's wrong with that guy?
むくっ
If that's an order from the Vice Commander
Hijikata-san!
IT IS!!
SFX: "sitting up"
I demand an explanation
Yeah... well...
Before Yamanami-san starts nagging again
Yes, I went to a cherry blossom viewing party and got drunk
hmph

NAGA-KURA-KUN!
Hey, hey, you can yell at me later
Well, you see, I got into some trouble while I was drunk
And I knew it would look bad for the Shinsengumi if I got my ass kicked in a brawl
So I got this guy for backup
And he just improvised a weapon out of a pole!
That was like, so cool!

Hijikata-san, I'm sorry to disturb you
Oops...
You should have introduced him first!
That didn't mean you had to sign him up!
And then he bandaged me up!
Look!
HA-...

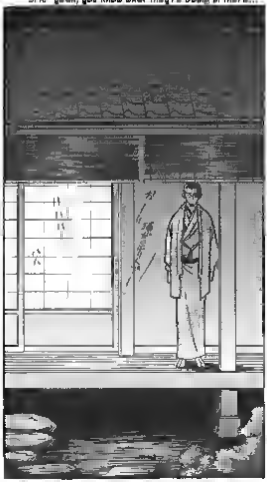
Hey, wanna hang out with me?
You know I'm not much of a drinker
Everybody was getting kind of worked up, so I came here
Yeah
Those guys were making me so tense, I had to leave too!
Ah, they're pretty bad...
But if Yamazaki-san is joining us, maybe I should have stayed...
Shut up about that guy!
.....

Huh?
I knew it
What's up with that guy calling you "Toshi-san?"
HOW ARE WE LIKE A MARRIED COUPLE?! WHERE DID YOU GET THAT IDEA?!!
How long have you known him?
We go way back
What is he to you?!
You sound like a jealous wife scolding an unfaithful husband

Ah, I get it, I get it
plop
You can't just grab somebody for no reason!
Let me go!
It's just that when you act like you don't even like me...
I don't know what to think...
But there is a reason...
Wouldn't you hold on to something that you don't want to lose?
.....
Hey, look at me
Let me see your face

When I first met you at Sheikan, you were just a little brat
You were even more of a stubborn pain in the ass back then
I figured that with me raising you, you'd grow up to be a real jerk too
The more you think about something, the stronger it gets
Feel that?
Right?
Not really...
Well, with your bad influence...
Hey, you wanna get your ass kicked?

You didn't get this way because of me
I keep coming back to him
Mm
When my heart feels weak, we join our bodies like this
And I feel stronger


SFX: *yeah, you know what they're doing in there...*

I wonder if this is all just a game to him...
Ah...

How many doctors are we gonna have around this place?
And I heard Yamazaki got made Inspector
Several days later
Why the hell do we have to get looked at by a doctor?!
WHAT?!
Well, I heard that
But...
Well, I heard that they're just doing a check-up!
Hm...
It seems that many of the men here lead lives of loose morals and heavy drinking
The quarters of the common soldiers are crowded and unsanitary, conditions which often lead to epidemic
I will take it upon myself to look into the health of the men, and make improvements where necessary
Uh

Ha Ha Ha
No way! I don't want creep looking at me!
And everybody has to be examined, even the officers
Hmm
Very good! Everything looks fine!
I see you enjoyed that
Stick out your tongue
aahhhh

Just remember that personal hygiene is important!
Whatever
Ah, but...
You have the kind of body that men love, so take care of it!
Nice skin... Nice waist... Nice ass...
...the face needs some help
SFX: "door slam"
DON'T YOU FUCK AROUND WITH ME, SHITHEAD!! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
IF you EVER say something like that again...
I'LL KILL YOU!
SFX: "shh"

Hei-suke?
SFX: *standing up*
This scar wasn't stitched up very well...
Or perhaps it opened and had to be resewn
Next please!
Yeah
Well, which is it?
If you do anything to Hei-suke I will personally kill you

Sigh
Now that's two officers who have sworn to kill me
I was just making a little joke, nothing more
Watch what you say
And only one person didn't show up
Very well

Souji is the only one left
All right!
...

Didn't you hear me call you?
Oh, was it something important?

Captain Okita?

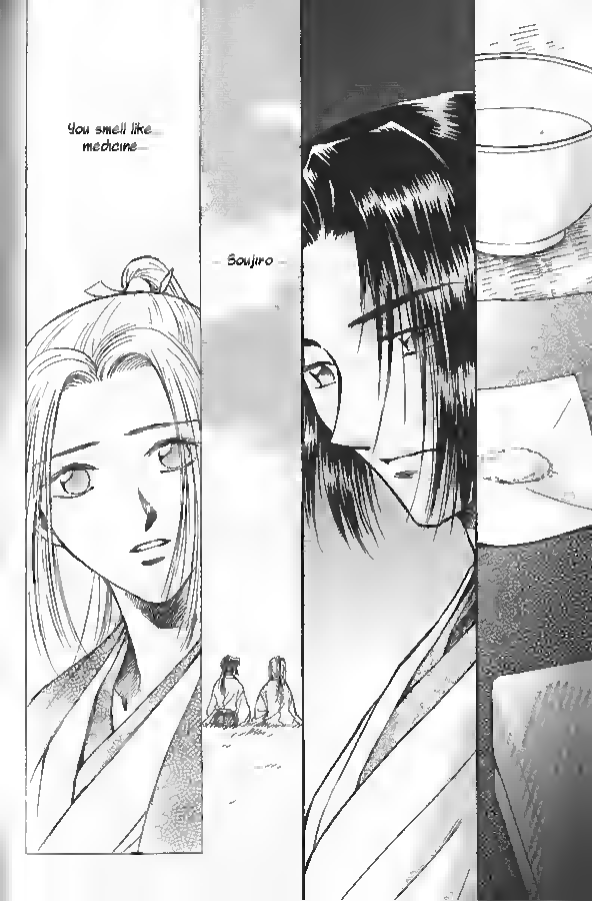
But I'll come play with you later, okay?
I have something I've got to take care of,
Okay!
Well, you're the last one left Do you mind coming with me?
Yup!
Come back soon!
Yamazaki-san, there is nothing wrong with my health!
Okita-san...
I'm not lying!
I'm concerned that you would lie to me

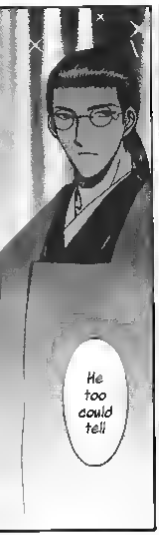
I might be an accupuncturist, but I don't just treat patients with aches and pains
There are many ways to treat sickness
In both Eastern and Western medicine,
People cling to whatever hopes they can when ill
I've had many patients like this

What are you trying to say?
I don't understand
People like these...
Are very sick indeed...

!!
If you do not leave the Shinsengumi, you will die

Flowers that
Do Not Fall 2


You smell like medicine
Soujiro



The Mibu Roushigumi!

My Trip the the Yagi House *part 5*

In the room where Serizawa Kamo was assassinated there is a statue of Kondou Isami Usually when I see a picture of Kondou-san I think "Wow he looks a lot like the comedian Masa Tommies." But when I saw the statue I was like "That's Tendou Yoshimi..." NO! NO! Even if my fantasy that the Shinsengumi were all hot guys doesn't hold up, I think I can at least tolerate Masa Tommies!

Note #1. Masa Tommies played Yamazaki Susumu in the film "Gohatto" which was released in the US as "Taboo" It's weird Shinsengumi yaoi. You know you wanna watch it

Note #2. Tendou Yoshimi is a Female erhu vocalist. She looks a bit like Rosie O'Donnell with some seriously bizarre hairstyles

Please stop this! These threats aren't funny at all!
I like to joke around, but I am deadly serious in this matter
Please, don't tell them!
If you're not going to tell anyone, then I...
I'm begging you...
You...
Are going to die...

Okita-san
There's no way! I can't leave now
I can't do that
Then please leave the Shinsengumi and rest
Sigh

Please, don't tell anyone!
As you wish
PLEASE!!

So this is it, huh?
Toshi-san
What?
SFX. "walking"
I'm busy
We can talk here
I wanted to talk to you Please come with me

What the Fuck do you want now?!
This is about Okita-san
Here is just too...
I'm outta here
Whatever! Just forget about Souji!
You're supposed to be an intelligence officer, so stop Fucking around!
I gotta hear shit from him I gotta hear shit from you
I am a doctor
And quit playing doctor!

What the fuck?!
Please wait!
SFX: "grab"
Don't you remember how close we used to be?
Toshi-san, I'm really enjoying this~
What?!
Do you intend to repeat your past mistakes?

Sigh

You'd only get angry, so that's all I have to say to you

What is he thinking?
Stuck-up asshole

Please take time to reflect
スタ スタ スタ

Sorry! I'm just a medicine peddler from Osaka
Hey! This ain't the servants' entrance!
Hm!
Let me see
If you like, you can read the letter he gave me
I've been given permission from Inspector Yamazaki to vend here
Thanks so much
Hmm
Looks authentic You can come in

Wow!
Oooh cool!
This one cures worms!
Well, sir, maybe you have worms in your stomach! That's why you can eat and eat without getting any bigger!
WHAT?
Wahhhh
Oki
Yamazaki_?
I knew you were clever
Okita-san
What are you doing here, Yamazaki-san?
Ah, Captain Okita

How could you tell?
SFX. "rustling"
I thought I was pretty good until you came along
Your voice
I changed it with a medicine It will return to normal soon
Why didn't I think of that?
Oh, but you still look the same from behind

You're used to seeing the glasses
Is it alright for you to be running around without your glasses?
Oh that's right
And when I saw your face, it looked like you!
From behind... I'll have to remember that

I don't see anything
Look!

Uhh, whatever you say...
I can create a new face
So by wearing glasses,

I thought that might be useful for when I appear in disguise
If everyone knows me as Yamazaki of the Shinsengumi when I'm wearing them,

And then all of a sudden, you look creepy again!
You looked like such a nice guy...
Toudou-kun!!
Ha ha ha
Well, you've given me some good experience!
A disguise is absolutely necessary for spying!
Well, I'll be going
See ya!
Why are you in that outfit?
It really works!
Here's something to express my gratitude
You probably have that girlish figure no matter what you eat
But I think you have worms
DEVOURING

So, how is Yamazaki-kun?

What do you mean?

Is he getting along with the others?

Hmm, so I look the same from behind.
Maybe I should try asking?

Toshi-san, what should I do?
Has he been able to discover anything as Inspector or is he having trouble?
Go ask him yourself!
Just because I get along well with the men doesn't mean I've got to tell you everything
What now?
Well um...
I met him when I was a medicine seller, before I came back to Shinkan
I see
Well, Yamazaki-kun is an old acquaintance of yours

WHAT?
And I know about you... and Okita...
I heard a rumor that you had that kind of relationship with Yamazaki-kun
Huh?
I'm glad that's all it is...
If that's not the case, I understand!
Oh, it's alright!
Don't think I'd do something like that to Souji...

I tried not to worry about it, but...
But you once kissed me right here, Toshi-san!
Ah, well, no
You think I would take it further than that?
Do ya or don't ya?
I'm sorry to interrupt, but I wanted to talk to you
Wah!
Whatever you're thinking, I'M NOT LIKE THAT!
You think I wouldn't do it?

What is it?
Y... Ya... Yamazaki-kun, I apologize
Toshi-san! You're heavy!!
OW!
I disguised myself to go spying
I had suspicions about the men arrested yesterday For planting fires It turns out that he was a Choushu denemen
I pressed for more information, and discovered that countless Choushu are hiding out in the capital

Recently, several Fireshave distracted the Shinsengumi and the Mimaewarigumi
I believe this was to hinder our efforts to spy on them
However, I have not yet been able to determine what their plan is
I see
So you think they're going to try something big in the near future?
Yes
Please continue to observe this in secret
I can't It's already public knowledge
The recent fires and other disturbances have made the people of this city uneasy
To think that there is something larger in the works...
What?!

There are rumors floating about town that many Choushu ronin are in hiding
Well, see to it that such rumors cease!
Are you just going to cover this up?
He's right
Since we know about this, we are obligated to stop it quicky
Otherwise they will overtake us as well
Do I have your agreement?
Ah... yes
Then I shall report back as soon as possible
Quickly, please!
Yes sir

What do you want now?
1104-1
Thank you for your time
SFX. *door closing*
Well, I'm going
Toshi-san
What now? He seems to have everything under control
These rumors upset the public
If this is our duty
To not keep information to ourselves

Then it's clear what we have to do
Toshi-san!!
Or perhaps we ought to keep some secrets to ourselves
Of course. Shall we bring everything out into the open?

Um...
What is it, Yamasaki-san?
Excuse me...
Just a little investigative work to be done in the city, boys. I need men who are capable and intelligent
Yes sir
But
But we...
Relax, I'm not going to bite you
Hyikata-san and I were dicussing the rumors travelling about town I'd like you two to look into them
censored
You have to be in excellent physical condition for detective work! That's just my type of guy~!
Your "type?"
Um...

We are the Shinsengumi! Bring us the owner of this shop, Kiemon!!
June 5th, 1864 - Masuya Charcoal Shop, Shijou District
Just tell people that if they wish to spread information, to bring it to public attention that is to to say, our attention
That's

Arrest them!!
ワァァ!
キィン キィン!
Over there!
Did you see them?
I did

"Masuya Kiemon" is only an alias He has been at the center of Choushu operations
We found stockpiles of weapons and ammunition in his warehouse There's no mistake
That means
But you know we only managed to catch one guy here, right?
Of course I do
So we must act quickly
I don't think our captive will tell us anything
...
If only we knew what their plan was...
Ha-jime!
We must counter their plan at once

You'd only get in the way
Just wait here
But
Hey!
Hey
Come in
This is the place?

Fuck off! Wait outside!
Let us in! You just let Hajime!
I'm not letting you in
Why?! We're supposed to be searching.
Hijikata-san!
Please, let it go
Toshi-san!!
He's not letting Kondou-san in either
Yamazaki? Get your ass in here!
Alright!

SFX: "apprehension"
ナハ ナハ……
ハハター
SFX: "door closing"

I specifically chose you three
I
From this point on, what goes on in this room stays in this room
Under-stood!!

Flowers That Do Not Fall 3

the palace
to cover up
Killing the lord of Aizu
We're going to burn...

The Kyoto Tsuru-ya

My Visit to the Yagi House

Part 4

It looks like the Yagi family now runs a Japanese candy store. In front of the house is a shop - I went to check it out, and discovered the Kyoto Tsuru-ya Teahouse, where you can rest drink and eat sweets. Inside the shop, they sell souvenirs like Nikuro mochi and monaka cakes. There's this big Shinsengumi business now, but maybe people think it's getting too commercial these days?

They ate too much, they drank too much, and they got in too many brawls.
They came with only the clothes on their backs.
They were really a group of dirty, unrefined men.
Even if it is too commercial, can I really complain...

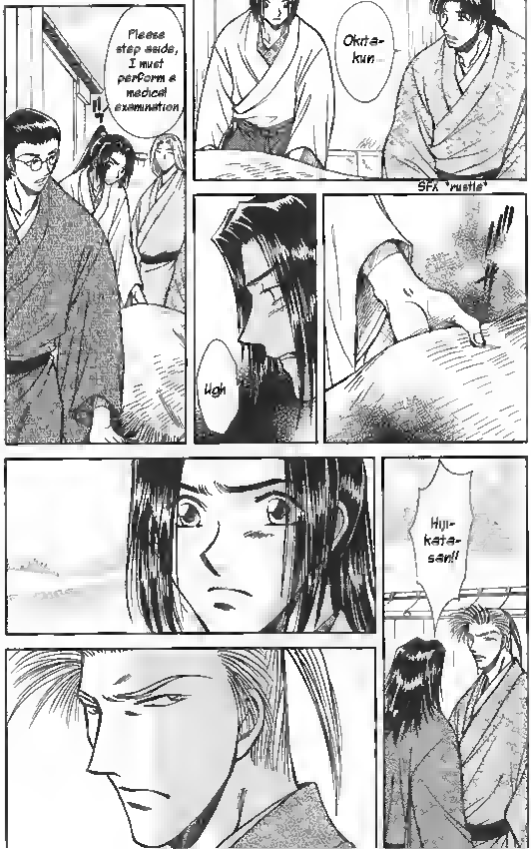
Toshi-san!

SFX: "running"

Him?
We've gotta go see him

They're planning something that we never predicted
We can't just show up like that!

Matsu-daira


Okita-kun
Please step aside, I must perform a medical examination
SFX "rustle"
ugh
Hijikata-san!!

Why are you two just standing around?!
That was too cruel...
If you knew what they were planning, you'd move your asses and come with me!
This is outrageous!
To even concieve of burning down the palace...
The wind has been strong at night lately... a fire set upwind of the palace would spread rapidly

Send out spies to make a thorough search of the city!
You must prepare troops!
On top of that, they'll kidnap the Emperor and take him back to Choushu
They intend to take advantage of the chaos to attack Matsudaira while he is en route to visit the exiled Prince Nakagawa no Miya
Attack Katamori-sama?
Once as the others know we are on to their plot, they will simply move
And if those we arrest do not confess?
Wait!
We'll take care of it!
Just leave it to us

At least wait until evening!
WHY?!
I wish to consult with Katsumori-sama on this matter
You're not being serious
The Choushu move at night
If they see you rushing out of here now, they'll go into hiding
It's reasonable. We can wait until sundown
We'll cross swords if we find them!
Make your deliberations quick!
.....

They're LATE!
SFX: "the background sounds are the bells and drums of the Gion Festival"
I told you before that it takes time to assemble men and get them ready
If we wait too long, the opportunity will pass us by
Why the fuck are we waiting around for Akai reinforcements?
We can't just go alone
Perhaps we should not hesitate
I wonder if they wish to avoid dirtying their hands with conflict
My thoughts exactly
HUH?

I'm not waiting for those fucking cowards!
Hijikata-san...
.....
I don't think Matsudaira would approve
This will sound suspicious when it reaches the ears of the Imperial Court
We'll split into two groups
One group can investigate the Gion district on the east bank of the Kamo River,
And the other can go to the Kawaramachi and Kiyamachi neighborhoods on the west bank
As for why we're splitting up like this
Let me explain in more detail

When we took him down,
The captive murmered the name of a geisha in Gion
So the other mission is just a decoy?
Alright, I'm taking the East Bank
Toshi-san!!
I'm giving you the West Bank just in case we missed something important!
Switch with me!
HELL NO!
I'll make it up to you - you can have more men
Fine!
Yamanami, Yamasaki - you stay behind and wait for the Aizu reinforcements
Keep a messenger and four soldiers to defend the post

So, five men for me, and ten for you
Toshi-san, do you think that will be enough?!
Shut up! I don't want to hear you whine!
Nagakura
Harada
Hai-zuka
On the West Side with Isami
And Souji, you go too
Hijikata-san! Take me with you, please!!
Toshi-san!
Hijikata-san!
But we'll have 25 in reserve over here
Perhaps more for the East Bank

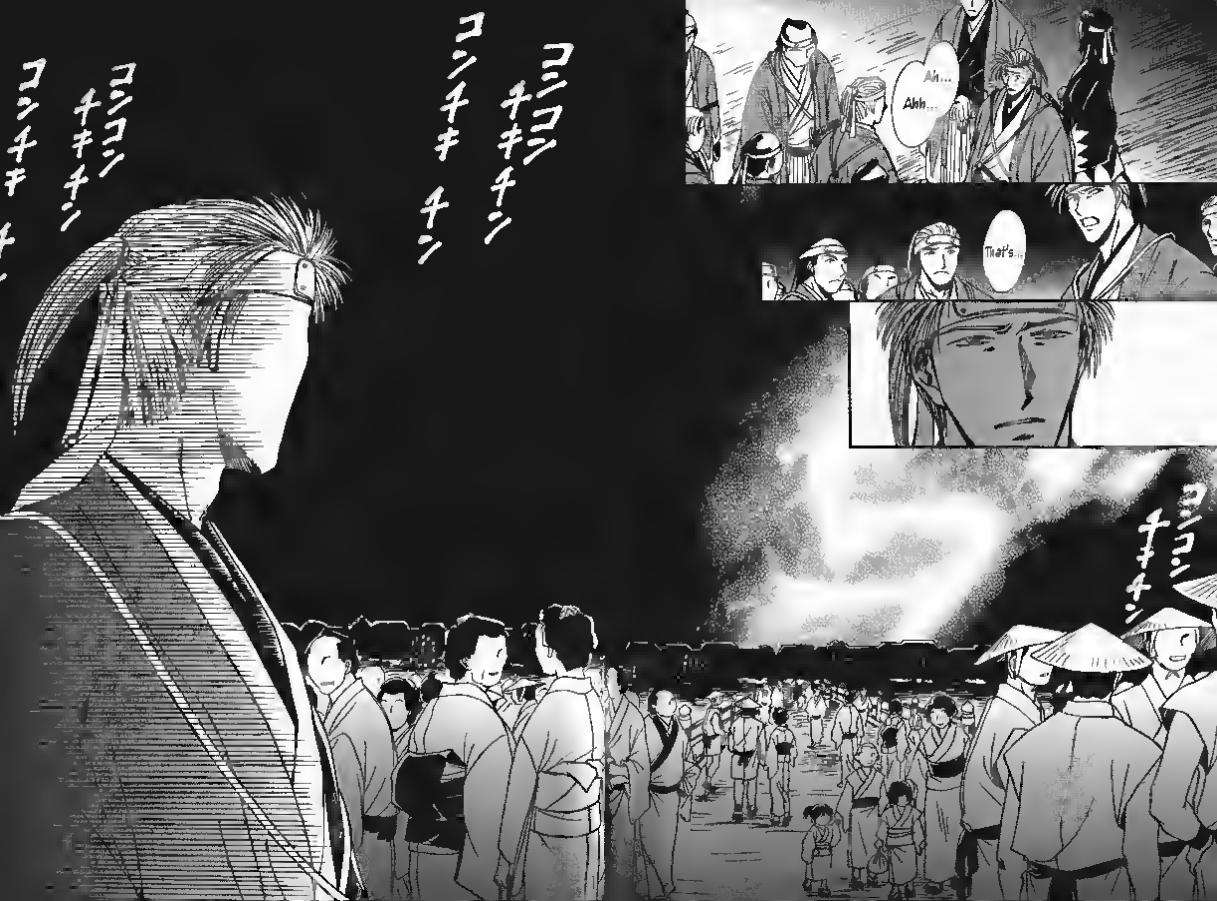
What, Yamazaki?
Okita-san, please go with Kondou
LET'S GO!
Yamazaki-san?
If you don't follow orders, Aizu's gonna think twice about coming out to help us!

Hijikata-san—
Take care of Isami
But I—

SFX. "staggering"
Next!
Nobody here!
SFX. "Festival music"
Even now...
Maybe he's sick of me...
Maybe...

We're inspecting this inn!
コンコン
チキチン
コーチキチン
Nothing here!
And at a time like this Why?! I just don't understand!
But, why why does he hate me?
Move it!!
Why?!
Why...?

Why would Yamazaki be so worried about Souji?
Please, don't take Okita-san with you
I never heard that... only Yamazaki did
Masuya mentioned a certain geisha in Gion...
I don't get it...
Fuku-chou!
Come here!!
I don't get it... and I don't like it...


Ah...
Ahh...
That's...
コンコン
チキチン
コンチキ
チン
コンコン
チキチン
コンチキ
チン
コンコン
チキチン

We've gotta get to the West Bank, NOW!
Uhh...
Fuku-chou!
What the fuck?!
Ahh!
We found the Choushu hideout
We
Where?!
They're still there!
!?
!?

SFX: "door opening"

池

SFX: "more Festival noise"

ヨイヨイ
ヨイヨイ

Hijikata-san!!

There could be more of them hiding inside! Watch out!

Heisuke's bleeding it won't stop!!

What about the others? Are they alright?
I don't know

There might still be Choushu alive in there!
Carry the wounded out!

Nagakura!
I need some help in here, right now!
ISAMI!!
Are you alright?!
Kondou-san is still inside
Isami!

Toshi-
san

I've just killed a man...
What... What should I say?
Don't say anything
Let's go
I'm sorry
Where the hell is Souji?! Maybe he chased them outside!
The Aizu reinforcements will be here soon! Carry the dead away!
SOUJI!
SOUJI!
There's no way he could have been killed!
Sou ji?

Let me see!
Are you hurt?!
I was worried about you!
cough
SFX:"grab"
Bouji?
SFX:"shout"
AH!

WAIT!
Ah...
WAIT, DAMN IT!
What should I do?! He knows!!
Now that he knows, I won't be able to be with him anymore...
SOUJI!

Kikuchiyo, I'm sorry...
Heiand Kikuchiyo are equal in my heart...
I won't be able to protect you anymore
SOUJI!

SFX: "lots of coughing"
Hey!
HEY!
SFX: "splatter"
I'm sorry...
I...
I'm sorry...

I'm sorry...
Don't try to speak, you idiot...
I... I won't be able to...
be with you all anymore
He said I'd make you sick too!!

I'm so sorry...

Flowers That Do Not Fall 4

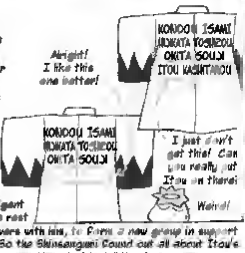
Ahhhhh!!
You're a pain in the ass I can feed myself, you know
Sorry, but no
Hmph!
Say "ahh!"

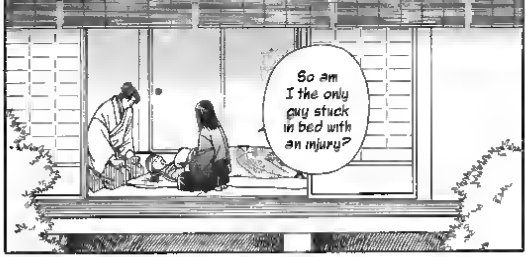
Souvenier Shopping for the Serious Fan!

My Visit to the Yagi House Part 5

They had souvenier Shinsengumi keori (Japanese coats) on the a wall display. The names of the main members were written on the back, but their choice of people to include was totally wrong! I mean, Itou Kashitarou was an important figure in the Shinsengumi, but why stick him with the other three like they were old buddies? So all you had to do to get in cose with the top members of the Shinsengumi was shout up? Isn't that kind of a naive idea?

"Itou Kashitarou was a military advisor who joined the Shinsengumi after Ikedaya. He was very intelligent and influential, but his views didn't quite fit with the rest of the group. So he eventually left, taking his followers with him, to form a new group in support of the Emperor. But Saitou went along as a spy! So the Shinsengumi found out all about Itou's plans and had him assassinated. His surviving followers attempted to kill Kondou.




So am I the only guy stuck in bed with an injury?

Wow
hm

Andou-dono and Natta-dono were seriously wounded, and may not survive
Okuzawa-dono was killed

SFX: *chewing*

Even though the doctor told him to stop drinking
Um. Captain
Hey, pour me some sake!
I can't do it
Nagakura-san hurt his hand and has to keep it in a sling, but he's alright

How's Shinpachi?

Well
Anybody else?

He was not wounded
Well, Okita...
WHAT?! Somebody beat him?!
Then why?
He has a cold
That's IT?!
He isn't feeling well, so he's staying in bed
His lungs are weak
Hmm...
Well, if you're sick, you can't do anything else!
.....

"sigh"
Thank you so much... please don't tell anyone the truth
Hey, is that a bruise on your neck?
Oh?
That's because my information was at fault
Even though Hijikata-san kinda found out anyway

WHAT?!
Sort of tried to strangle me
Toshizou-san
Oh, that
But
Come now, drink your medicine and lay down
We already agreed that you would get some rest and not worry
It's nothing

I should have been on the West Bank too!
You fucking lied to me!
Why did this happen...?
But you tricked me...
So I wasn't there for Isami!

You son of a bitch!
What? Why are you looking at me like that?!
squeeze
I think you misunderstand me...

You KNEW he was sick!!
I lied to you for Okita's sake, but the plan backfired...

But you had someone else you needed to protect
Of course he would not leave your side, even to protect himself
Yet I knew you have a tendancy to get yourself into dangerous situations
I had to keep him out of danger
But my plan relied on forces outside my control
If you wish to do what is best for Okita-san, then you will stay away from him
.....

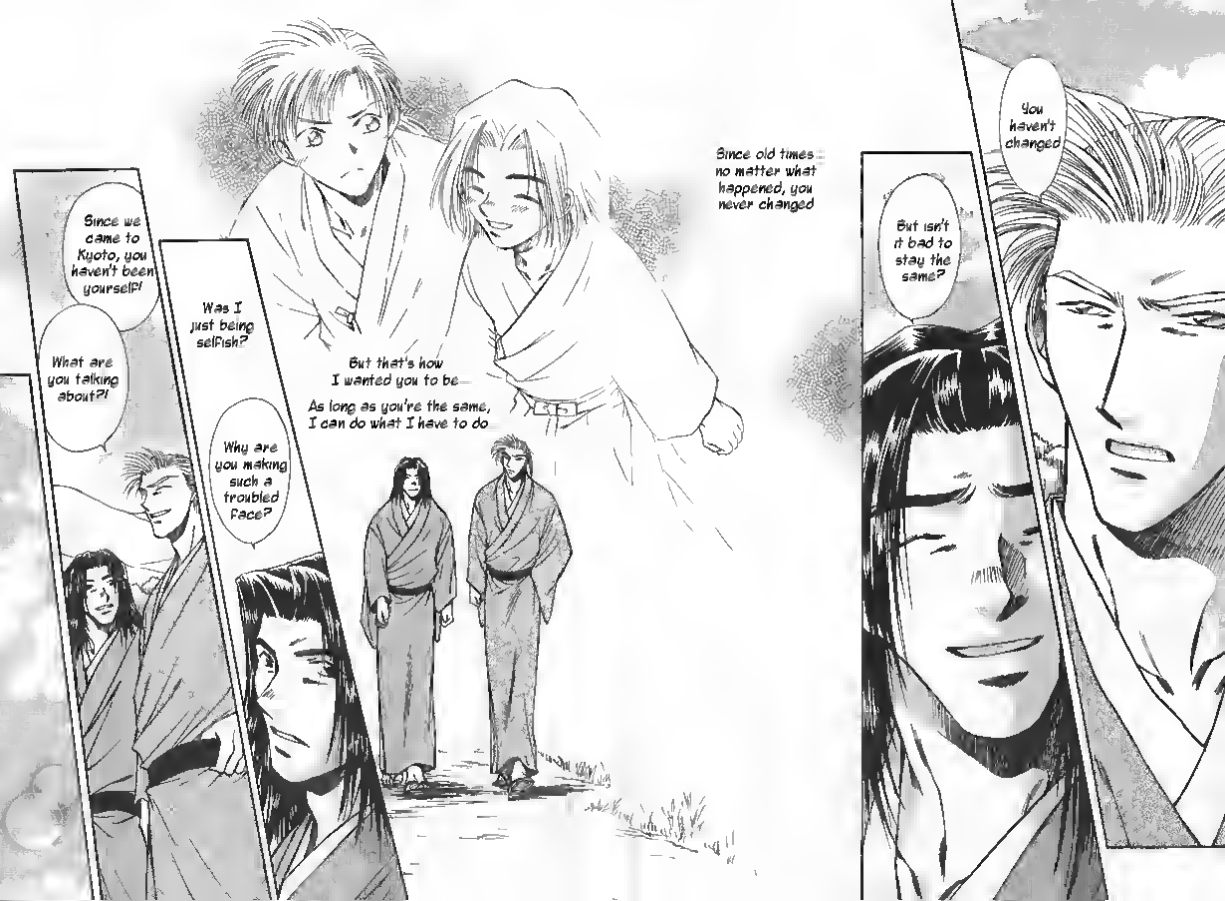
After all, couldn't you easily find someone to replace him?
I... he...
I'm not even going to bother telling you to rest in bed until you get better.
He's...
I...
What exactly is Okita-san to you?!

But I don't expect you to listen to me
Yamazaki-san
I've done all I can to keep you here under my care
Your condition is a bit better
There's no point. As soon as you can get up, you will
There was a time... when he was important to me as well
I know the people here are very important to you
Yes
Hijikata-san?

Isami!
Hey, Yamanami was worried when he couldn't find you! Why don't we go back?
Alright
Toshi-san?

I'm sorry
We've all gotta take some time to relax
No... I mean for what happened before
For a lot of things... everything
I could take things lightly, with a smile
Up until now, we've managed to avoid too much death
Isami
I just want to know... should we have come here?

I was thankful...
That I didn't have to feel everyone's pain
Toshi-san, I didn't know what to do...
It's alright, Isami
No, not at all
It's just that I thought I wouldn't have to change...
Fine, blame me for that too


Since old times no matter what happened, you never changed
But that's how I wanted you to be
As long as you're the same, I can do what I have to do
You haven't changed
But isn't it bad to stay the same?
Since we came to Kyoto, you haven't been yourself!
What are you talking about?!
Was I just being selfish?
Why are you making such a troubled face?

Okita-san?
How is it that you know Hijikata-san?
Well then, I'll be going
ﾌﾗﾘ
SFX: *pull*
I would rather you did not concern yourself with that
Don't you know that worrying is bad for your health?
Did you know that Toshizou-san was once a traveling medicine seller? His family has a secret formula
Yes, he told me

We met back in those days
I was making a follow-up visit to one of my patients
Thanks for coming
I couldn't have cured him myself
He's nice!
Yup!
Your daddy's gonna feel better too!
Even though medicine didn't help

When there was a patient who did not respond to medication, I would treat them with accu-puncture
Tell me! How did you cure the kid?!
Did that kid suffer even more because I was too proud to call you sooner?!
Did I have the diagnosis wrong?
You...?
Doctor, You have a guest.
He has the same look now
He was so worried, so full of regret then...

SFX "tap"
It's okay Don't be scared
But he's been so moody!
Toshizou-san... you sucked up your pride and took lessons from me
Well, he hates to lose
You didn't lose sight of what was really important
You're just such a...
Hopeless man, isn't he?

You bet!
What's up? How are you feeling?
SFX: "hmm"
Did you take your medicine?
Yes
Nice to see you too
What are you doing here?
Then he ought to be cured by now!
Hyakata-san!!

Yamazaki-san has been taking really good care of me!
What are you doing?! Yelling will strain your lungs!
Don't talk like that!
Well, I have work to do, so I'll be going
And if you have a problem with that, you can leave
HEY! Since when are you two best buddies?!
Don't drag me into this
You little
We've always been close!

It's just like old times
WHAT?!
That man...
burn
Old times? Hey!
Don't overstay your visit and fire Okita-san
Good bye
SHUT THE FUCK UP!

Um...
How is Kondou-san?
Actually, I was thinking about you...
He's alright. He just needs some time to sort things out on his own
You actually looked concerned
About what?!
SFX. "surprise"

You... won't always be here...?
Yeah
I know your prognosis isn't good...
So... I mean...
SFX: "grab"
I don't know what I would do without you
There's not a lot we can do...
Even if Yamazaki and worked together...
Even if...

What?! We've got some time!
But...
But...
I
Don't cry!
Even when you were a little kid and I teased you all the time, you never cried!
Don't give up now!

So I can see you right next to me
And you'll always be smiling
It doesn't matter what's behind us
It doesn't matter what's in front of us
I'll walk beside you
Our shoulders touching
I want to keep walking beside you
I

It's what Souji wanted all along...

We can still be together
That's better!
Right! Together
You can't let everyone see you sad!
Come on, you've got to smile!
Hyūkata-san...
Hm?
No don't...
Hey
You don't want to?
It's not that I'm sick

You look like yourself again!
Harada-san! And Yamanami-san!
I'm glad!
Hey, you look
Thank you!
I thought I'd warn you - they're coming
WAH! Saitou-kun!!
I thought you were the stubborn one...
Ah, you don't have to worry about him! He's too stubborn to be sick!
SOUDI IS!!!
Hyakata-san thank you
Thank you
THE END

First of all, I'd like to thank everybody who has been reading "Soshite Haru no Tsuki" up to the Fourth volume. I was so moved by all the readers that what I had planned to make a two-book series became four. I thank all of you who have just started reading as well as those of you who have read all the way from the beginning. Although I know I've changed some historical facts, I really like being able to draw and interpret the characters freely. (Okay, I've changed a lot of facts!)

Now the thought of Okita's illness is making me so sad... and the Ikeda-ya scene too... But I couldn't draw an Ikeda-ya scene where Souji doesn't cough blood, and I couldn't draw the Shinsengumi without their most important battle. I'm so sorry to the people who might have not wanted to see something so troubling, but I think the characters could overcome even the deepest tragedies with a smile - or at least that's how I feel I've made them. They're the kind of guys who could get back on their feet, face forward and smile.

But you know, it just feels so awful to know that horrible things are in store for them... so I just set out to draw what I thought each character would feel. Love, hate, passion, history and the secret bond between two people... I wanted to include all of that in my book. Manager-san, please be nice to me~~~~~! I will try as hard as I can, and maybe I will meet you all again in a 5th book!

Thanks For Reading!

Miya Ikushima

To my manager, Kami-san, and to my assistants, Taniguchi-san, Tanino-san, Hori-san and Hiraishi-san, thank you so much!

Well, I've had a lot of people ask me "What happens next?" and "Does XXX die?" - well, you probably know that Soshite Haru no Tsuki is based on the historical Shinsengumi. Their most famous battle, the Ikeda-ya Incident of 1864, took place in the final chapters of the manga. Within 5 years, nearly all of the Shinsengumi would be dead and the country would change radically. So I've included a list of when and how everyone dies -

DON'T READ IT IF YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW.

It's been a lot of fun translating this series and I hope everyone enjoyed it! Please support Hanami's future projects!! Thank you, everyone!!

--Sanada

Kondou Isami was captured and killed by the Ishin Army in 1868 after the defeat of the Shinsengumi in the Boshin War. The Shinsengumi were outlaws under the new Meiji government. He was 35.

Hijikata Toshizou fled to Hokkaido after Kondou's death, joining Enomoto Takeaki in a last effort to fight the Ishin. He was shot to death in a 1869 battle at the age of 35.

Yamanami Keisuke was ordered to commit seppuku in 1865 after trying to leave the Shinsengumi. Officially he left due to a difference in views, but many say he left with his lover, a prostitute.

Okita Souji succumbed to tuberculosis in 1868 at the age of 25. According to legend, he asked constantly about Kondou and tried to kill a black cat before dying alone in an Edo hospital. (There is a Peki tale that says if you kills a black cat, you can bargain with a devil)

Nagakura Shinpachi survived the wars, living until 1915 and writing a book on the Shinsengumi. Nagakura and Harada left together to form the Seisetsu within after a disagreement with the others. He died at 76.

Saitou Hajime also lived to 1915 and married Takagi Tokio. He changed his name to Fujita Goroku and became a police spy after fighting in the Satsuma War. He died from a stomach ulcer at the age of 72.

Inoue Genzaburou was killed in the first battle of the Boshin War. The Shogun had dishanded, but secretly raised an army to attack the Imperial Forces - the Shinsengumi were part of this battle but were defeated.

Tsuchi Harusuke followed military advisor Itou Kashitarou when he left the Shinsengumi in 1867. When Itou's group became too open in their support of the Emperor, the Shinsengumi ambushed and killed most of the members. Harusuke was 24.

Harada Sanosuke married a girl from a brothel, but was killed soon after in the Ueno Battle of the Boshin War at age 29. He left Nagakura's Seisetsu and joined the Shogitai. Some stories say he escaped to China and became a bandit.

Yamazaki Susumu also took part in the Toba-Fushimi battle of the Boshin War, where he was seriously injured. He died attempting to escape by boat.

Kikuchiyo - Shogun Iemochi, whom Kikuchiyo was a body double for, died in 1866 of illness caused by beriberi.